

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/746,936

Examiner

Joseph R. Maniwang

Applicant(s)

PARUPUDI ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09/29/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-20,22-33,35-41,43-48,50-58,60-67,69-74,76-87, and 91-97.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/21/04, 12/28/04, 6/23/05, 3/31/05, 12/4/06, 1/24/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Wm C. Vaughn, Jr.
WILLIAM C. VAUGHN, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Lance Sadler (Reg. No. 38,605) on 03/06/06.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
Claim 88 (Cancelled).
Claim 89 (Cancelled).
Claim 90 (Cancelled).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 2, 4-20, 22-33, 35-41, 43-48, 50-58, 60-67, 69-74, 76-87, and 91-97 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
6. The provision for receiving context information from externally of a device, the context information pertaining to one or more current device contexts; automatically determining one or more current contexts from the context information using one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures, wherein the tree structures comprises

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individual nodes, individual ones of which being associated with context, wherein said one or more current contexts are determined by traversing at least one node on at least one of the tree structures, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node; evaluating a collection of policies in connection with the one or more current contexts to provide a resultant set of policies; and enforcing the resultant set of policies on one or more applications on the device is not fairly taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

7. Furthermore, the provision for representing a location using multiple hierarchical tree structures, each of which comprising multiple nodes, each node representing a location that can be either a physical location or a logical location, the tree structures comprising at least one link between them that can server as a basis for a traversal operation that traverses the multiple tree structures to derive a computing device location; and expressing multiple policies as a function of the representation of location is not fairly taught or suggested by the prior art of record. Examiner finds particular novelty in the claimed hierarchical tree structures used to assign attributes to goods or services associated with individual nodes, and the linking between multiple hierarchical trees serving as a basis for traversal of multiple tree structures to derive a current context. Support for this functionality can be found in the enabling portions of Applicant's Specification on p. 57, line 18 through p. 60, line 13; p. 17, line 21 through p. 21, line 23; p. 24, line 18 through p. 25, line 14; Fig. 2, 4, 9, and 15.

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8. The best prior art, Olarig et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,125,446), hereinafter Olarig, discloses receiving context information of the device (including GPS location data), determining a current context from the context information, evaluating associated policies, and enforcing them on the device as claimed (see column 2, lines 28-43; column 4, lines 10-17; column 5, lines 16-28, 57-62). Olarig further disclosed the ability to receive different types of context information from multiple different context providers (see column 6, lines 14-17). However, the prior art references do not teach (alone or in combination) all the limitations together within the independent claims. For example, the independent claims contain the limitation "providing one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures on the device, the tree structures comprising individual nodes each of which being associated with a device context, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node". Olarig teaches determining the current context of a device, but does not disclose determining the current context using one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures comprised of individual nodes associated with a context, each node comprising an EID serving as a basis to assign attributes to goods or services associated with each node. Therefore, the independent claims have allowable subject matter and are allowable over the prior art of record.

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed 09/29/05, with respect to claims 1, 2, 4-20, 22-33, 35-41, 43-48, 50-58, 60-67, 69-74, and 76-97 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of the claims has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

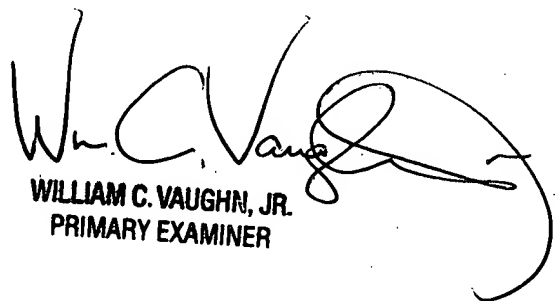
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph R. Maniwang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3928. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William C. Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JM


WILLIAM C. VAUGHN, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

JM